

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 PA-02 H-02 SSM-05  
SIG-03 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 SP-02 SS-15  
SSO-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01 ARA-14 MCE-00 ISO-00  
/122 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH/DP  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND  
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER  
H - MR. FLATEN  
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW  
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH  
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER  
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN  
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----065159 110049Z /65

O 102152Z MAY 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
USCINCEUR  
DOD  
JCS WASHDC 0000  
CIA WASHDC 0000  
USICA  
NSC WASHDC 0000

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 AM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MAY 10

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE  
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR MAY 10, 1978.  
FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER III.

Q. IN THAT SPEECH BY ATHERTON, HE MENTIONS THAT THE UNITED  
STATES IS GOING TO RESUME ITS MEDIATION EFFORTS. WHEN DOES  
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HE GO BACK AND WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT?

A. I DO NOT HAVE A SCHEDULE FOR MR. ATHERTON. I THINK THAT  
WAS A MORE GENERALIZED STATEMENT RATHER THAN A SPECIFIC  
ONE, BUT WE CERTAINLY DO INTEND TO CONTINUE IT. I DON'T  
HAVE A DATE.

Q. ARE YOU AWARE OF THE REPORT THAT THERE ARE CUBANS IN  
LEBANON?

A. YES, AND ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT WE HAVE CHECKED, AND TO  
THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE THAT ISN'T SO.

Q. THE SECRETARY IS SEEING SENATOR BYRD THIS AFTERNOON.  
I PRESUME HE IS GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE PLANE DEAL?

A. THE SECRETARY IS GOING TO TALK ABOUT A NUMBER OF  
SUBJECTS WITH THE SENATOR, AMONG THEM SALT. BUT I THINK  
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE AT THIS POINT FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
TO TALK TO THE MAJORITY LEADER WITHOUT ALSO TALKING ABOUT  
HOW WE ARE COMING ON OUR PROPOSALS WHICH HE HAS ENDORSED  
ON THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. REGARDING THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE SAUDIS, HAVING RECEIVED F-15'S FROM THE UNITED STATES, COULD THEN BUY JETS FROM ANOTHER SOURCE, PRESUMABLY FROM FRANCE. ON MONDAY YOU SAID THAT YOU WERE NOT AWARE THAT THEY HAD GIVEN ANY ASSURANCES THAT THEY WOULD NOT DO THAT, AND ALSO THAT YOU DIDN'T THINK THAT THERE WAS ANYTHING TO STOP A SOVEREIGN NATION FROM MAKING ARMS DEALS.

IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE SECRETARY EITHER HAS RECEIVED, OR THINKS HE CAN RECEIVE, SOME SORT OF ASSURANCES FROM THE SAUDIS. HAS HE RECEIVED THEM?

A. I WOULD HAVE TO PULL OUT HIS TESTIMONY IN THAT QUESTION  
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AND ANSWER SECTION, BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE IT FIRMLY ENOUGH IN MY MIND. WHAT HE SAID WAS THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS PARTICULAR PROPOSAL GOING THROUGH, THAT THEY WOULD NOT PROCEED WITH ANY OTHER COUNTER-PROPOSAL.

I THINK, HOWEVER THAT HE WAS ASKED, "WELL, WHAT ABOUT AFTERWARD? AFTER ALL, WON'T OTHER THINGS BE ON THE LINE BY THE MIDDLE EIGHTIES," OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. IN THAT RESPECT, I THINK HE SAID, "I AM NOT ABLE TO SPEAK ON IT.:

Q. IS IT STILL THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION THAT THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN STOP A SOVEREIGN NATIONS FROM MAKING ARMS DEALS?

A. THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN STOP THEM. THEY CAN, HOWEVER, UNDERTAKE TO SAY THAT THEY WILL NOT BECAUSE THEIR NEEDS HAVE BEEN MET. IN THIS RESPECT, THE F-15S WILL MEET THE NEEDS THAT THEY HAVE EXPRESSED FOR THIS TYPE OF AIRCRAFT. THERE WOULD BE NO NEED, AND THEY HAVE SO INDICATED, TO LOOK ELSEWHERE, ASSUMING THAT THIS DEAL --

Q. UP UNTIL THE POINT THAT THE F-15S HAVE BEEN DELIVERED?

A. TO TRY TO PROJECT, IT IS LIKE THE ROLLING SET OF PACKAGES WE GET FROM OTHER PEOPLE IN THAT AREA. THEY TEND TO CHANGE AS CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE OVER TIME. I AM NOT GOING TO SIT HERE AND TELL YOU SOMETHING CAN'T CHANGE BEFORE 1984. I JUST DON'T KNOW.

Q. BUT THE ASSURANCES THAT THEY HAVE GIVEN, AS FAR AS YOU KNOW, IS THAT THEY WILL NOT ORDER NEW PLANES OR BUY NEW PLANES WHILE THIS CONTRACT IS IN --

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A. I BELIEVE THAT WAS THE GIST OF WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID YESTERDAY, THAT THESE WOULD MEET THE NEEDS THAT THEY FORESEE FOR THIS KIND OF AIRCRAFT.

Q. ON THE PLANE SALE, I UNDERSTAND MARK SEGAL HAS WRITTEN A LETTER TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ACCUSING THE ADMINISTRATION OF HAVING SUCCUMBED TO ECONOMIC BLACKMAIL. I WONDERED IF THERE WAS ANY SPECIFIC --

A. THE SECRETARY, I FELT, DEALT DIRECTLY WITH THAT, AND I HAVE BEFORE. THAT SIMPLY IS NOT THE CASE. WE HAVE NOT BEEN OFFERED ECONOMIC BLACKMAIL NOR HAS OUR DECISION ON THE ARMS SALES HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE THREAT OF ECONOMIC BLACKMAIL. THAT IS JUST NOT SO.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY RESPONSE TO WHAT SENATOR WEICKER SAID TWO NIGHTS AGO?

A. I THINK WHAT HE HAD TO SAY WAS REPREHENSIBLE. I THINK THAT IT WAS A GROSS MISSTATEMENT OF BOTH FACT AND INTERPRETATION. I THINK IT WAS DEMAGOGUERY, AND I BELIEVE THAT IT HAS BEEN SUFFICIENTLY ANSWERED BY BOTH SENATOR JAVITS, SENATOR RIBICOFF, SENATOR MOYNIHAN, AND ROBERT LIPSHUTZ, NOT TO MENTION THE PLACES YOU WOULD EXPECT, SUCH AS THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES SATISFIED WITH THE PACE AND THE EXTENT OF THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON?

A. AS I THINK I HAVE SAID BEFORE, THE ISRAELIS HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY INTEND TO GO THROUGH A SYSTEMATIC WITHDRAWAL. THEY ARE PROCEEDING WITH THAT WITHDRAWAL. WE EXPECT THEM IN FACT, TO WITHDRAW AS THEY SAID THEY WERE GOING TO UNDER THE TERMS OF THE RESOLUTION. I HAVE NO REASON TO EXPRESS DISSATISFACTION.

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Q. WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND THEM TO SAY THEY ARE GOING TO WITHDRAW, IS IT TO THE BORDER OF MARCH 15?

A. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING, AND CERTAINLY OUR INTERPRETATION, THAT THE WITHDRAWAL SHOULD BE WITHIN THE BORDERS OF ISRAEL.

Q. WHAT IS THE TIMETABLE ON THAT?

A. I DO NOT BELIEVE A TERMINATION DATE HAS BEEN SET. I BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT WITHDRAWALS ARE CONTINUING.

Q. ARE YOU SATISFIED AT THE PACE THAT IT IS BEING DONE?

A. I HAVE NO REASON TO EXPRESS DISSATISFACTION.

Q. ARE YOU WAITING TO DISCUSS WITH THE EGYPTIANS ANY OF THE NEW IDEAS THAT WERE BROUGHT HERE BY DAYAN AND BEGIN UNTIL YOU GET RESPONSES FROM THE ISRAELI CABINET ON THE QUESTIONS YOU HAVE ALREADY PUT TO THEM?

A. I THINK A FULL DISCUSSION ON THESE PROPOSALS DO AWAIT THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS, AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE EGYPTIANS ARE AWARE OF THE OUTLINE OF WHAT HAS BEEN PUT FORWARD. BUT PENDING THE CLARIFICATIONS WHICH WE HAVE REQUESTED, I DOUBT THAT WE HAVE ANY NEGOTIATING -- ANY INTERMEDIARY OR ANY OTHER ROLE TO PLAY AT THIS TIME.

Q. AMBASSADOR PARKER IS HERE FROM BEIRUT. WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO TELL US WHY HE IS HERE? IS IT RELATED TO THE ISRAELI PULLBACK?

A. I AM NOT ABLE TO SAY MUCH EXCEPT THAT HE IS IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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BUILDING HAVING A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS OFFICIALS HERE. BEYOND THAT, I REALLY CAN'T GO.

VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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